

Memo for the Record: Telephone Talk with AECASSOWARY 2.

From : []
Date : Monday, 5 June 1967.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. AECASSOWARY 2 telephoned this date around 1000 hours,
to relate the following items:-

a. Rumor re Defection of Valeriy KOROTYCH:

The poet was in New York the last week of May 1967. On 26th May, he talked at Columbia University; on 27 May he talked to the Round Table Club; on 28 May he was a guest of Prof John FIZER, Rutgers University. Professor FIZER later told a friend of AECASSOWARY 2 that KOROTYCH, about to leave for the USSR, had chosen instead to remain in the United States. AECASSOWARY 2 wanted to know if this rumor is true, his source saying it was 99% true.

b. Alleged Soviet Agents ZHEGOT and MARDAK.

Emigre sources in Germany and the US say that ZHEGOT, a Munich OUN/HELNYK activist and OUN/RADA official, has defected to the homeland, sometime last week; ~~perhaps~~ he was noted to be missing last Friday, 2 June 67. ZHEGOT was born in the Carpatho-Ukraine, worked for the OUN/M as their specialist and contact man with anti-Communists from the Soviet satellite countries, headed an OUN/RADA office in Munich doing research on various topics. ZHEGOT knew personally the wife of Orest ZILINSKY of Czechoslovakia. ZILINSKY and his wife are to visit West Germany and France next week, and ZHEGOT was one of the persons he was supposed to talk to in Germany.

The second man to defect, allegedly at the same time as ZHEGOT and perhaps as a coordinated plan, was another native of Carpatho-Ukraine (Inu) MARDAK, a student at the University of SAARBRUCKEN. MARDAK was recently divorced, recently remarried; he took no active part in political or emigre life.

2. I talked with [], [], and [] SB/ CB/ K regarding the rumor regarding KOROTYCH. Nobody knew anything. I talked to [], who also knew nothing, and recommended we ask AECASS 2 to dig up all details he can.

Regarding ZHEGOT and MARDAK, I talked to [], who knew nothing but expressed willingness to have us send a cable to Bonn asking for information.

3. I telephoned AECASSOWARY at around 1115 hours, 5 June, told him our interest in KOROTYCH rumor was great and that we knew nothing. We asked him to contact FIZER directly and get more data, and to let us know by phone the result of his investigations.

Regarding ZHEGOT and MARDAK, I told AECASSOWARY 2 that we know nothing and will keep him informed if we learn something.

4. Regarding Orest ZILINSKY, AECASSOWARY 2 stated that man and his wife will visit West Germany and France, including the Shevchenko Society in Sarcelles. AECASS 2 said some of his men in Europe will meet the couple, who he feels are under KGB discipline with a mission similar to that of KOROTYCH, or that they represent different aspects of the same KGB/PR mission against the emigres.